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Message Text

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60/20
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 /079 W
---------- 036889
R 030845Z FEB 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN
FM AMEMBASS PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9548
INFO OAMEMBASSY DACCA 8
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0277

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, CZ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PAKISTANI CULTURAL MINISTER

1. PAKISTANI DCM MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO CHARGE JAN 30 ABOUT VISIT OF CULTURE MINISTER PIRZADA JAN 29-30:

2. RECEPTION HAD CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS OF PAKISTANIS, WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SHORT SHRIFT FROM CZECHOSLOVAKS. THIS VISIT (FIRST MINISTERIAL VISIT SINCE BHUTTO WAS HERE AS FOREIGN MINISTER SOME TIME AGO) INDICATED A MODEST UPSWING IN RELATIONS. MEDIA ATTENTION WAS RATHER LARGE, IN FACT A GOOD DEAL MORE THAN MINISTER OF CULTURE VISIT ACTUALLY RATED. (EMBASSY CONCURS IN THIS.) HOWEVER, CZECHOSLOVAKS DID NOT GO ALL OUT: THEY SET UP SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, INCLUDING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, BUT DID NOT GO FOR RECEPTION BY PRIMIN STRUGAL AT PAKISTANIS HAD RATHER HOPED.

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3. A LARGE PART OF CZECHOSLOVAK REASONING IN THEIR TREATMENT OF PIRZADA, SOURCE SAID, WAS NO DOUBT

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THEIR DRIVE TO SHOW "IMPROVING RELATIONS" WITH ANY AND ALL COUNTRIES. BEYOND THIS, HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, ACTING AS ALWAYS IN CLOSE CONCERT WITH MOSCOW, WERE INTERESTED IN AMELIORATING RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. THEY HAD WATCHED FONMIN CHNOUPEK'S VISIT TO KABUL CAREFULLY, AND FELT HE HAD BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN NOT SUPPORTING ANY AFGHAN CLAIMS UPON PAKISTAN. THE PAKISTANIS ALSO THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN WORRY IN MOSCOW FOR AWHILE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLA DESH, WHERE THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN INTERVENTION HAD BEEN REAL. IT LOOKED AS IF THE RUSSIANS, AND HENCE THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, DID NOT WANT THAT PART OF THE WORLD TO GET TOO FAR OUT OF BALANCE. PERHAPS THIS WAS BEHIND A CERTAIN UPPING OF RELATIONS WITH ISLAMABAD, AND THE SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF PIRZADA MAY HAVE PARTLY REFLECTED THIS DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS ALSO TRUE THAT PIRZADA WAS CLOSE TO BHUTTO PERSONALLY AND THE CZECHS KNEW THIS.

4. THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT PLAYED UP ON RUDE PRAVO'S FRONT PAGE WAS THUS NOT MUCH IN ITSELF, BUT AS A SYMPTOM OF SOME EVOLUTION IN SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK ATTITUDES TOWARDS PAKISTAN WAS OF SOME ENCOURAGEMENT. (CHARGE UNDERSTOOD SOURCE TO SAY, BUT WAS NOT SURE AND DID NOT WANT TO PRESS, THAT PAKISTANIS HAD SOME HOPE THAT CSSR FONMIN CHNOUPEK WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION TO PAKISTAN SOMETIME. NO DOUBT EMBASSY ISLAMABAD WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS.)

5. SOURCE (NAJEEN HASSAN) IS YOUNG BUT INTELLIGENT. SOME OF THIS SPECULATION MAY BE PERSONAL, BUT SEEMS WORTH PASSING ALONG FOR WHAT BEARING IT MIGHT HAVE ON MOSCOW'S NEWS. HE SHOULD PROBABLY BE PROTECTED. PERRY

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